



Protecting Montana's wildlife,
land, waters and hunting & fishing
heritage for future generations.

August 20, 2020

Montana Fish, Wildlife, & Parks, Region 4
Lewistown Office
333 Airport Rd
Lewistown, MT 59457

Attn: Wolf Creek Conservation Easement

Dear Sonja Andersen,

The Montana Wildlife Federation (MWF) is our state's oldest and largest state-based wildlife conservation organization. We were formed in 1936 when hunters joined landowners to restore depleted wildlife in Montana, and for 84 years we have worked on key issues affecting wildlife, habitat and access.

MWF is strongly supportive of the proposed Wolf Creek Conservation Easement (CE) by the Dept. of Fish, Wildlife & Parks (FWP). This property is adjacent to the Beckman Wildlife Management Area (WMA) and will protect 1,000 acres of critical native ecosystems including sagebrush steppe and mixed grass prairie. Roughly 33 Species of Greatest Conservation Need (SGCN) may occur through the property and several of the ecological communities within this CE are in a low or declining status. Additionally, this property provides year-round habitat for pronghorn as well as being a critical migration route. Under a CE, this property will provide public access to this property as well as many recreation opportunities in a region of the state with fewer public lands.

MWF commends the Department of Fish, Wildlife & Parks for working to protect our great outdoors. Thank you for the opportunity to comment and voice support of this project. If you have any questions, or if we can be of any assistance, please contact our Western Montana Field Coordinator, Eric Clewis, at eclewis@mtwf.org

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Eric Clewis". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Eric Clewis
Western Montana Field Coordinator
Montana Wildlife Federation

From: Jimmy Lewis <jimmylewismontana@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, August 27, 2020 3:08 PM
To: Andersen, Sonja
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Attn: Wolf Creek Conservation Easement

I support the creation of this easement.

Thank you,

Jimmy Lewis
320 Middle Cottonwood Lane
Bozeman, MT 59715
406-580-8466

From: don@rich4evr.com <don@rich4evr.com>
Sent: Friday, August 28, 2020 9:20 PM
To: Andersen, Sonja
Subject: Public Comment: Wolf Creek Conservation Easement Draft Environmental Assessment

I support the purchase of a perpetual Conservation Easement as proposed.

From: dpfauski@gmail.com <dpfauski@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, August 31, 2020 4:29 PM
To: Andersen, Sonja
Subject: Public Comment: Wolf Creek Conservation Easement Draft Environmental Assessment

I don't know how many hours are logged by people doing outdoor activities on the Beckman but what an amazing resource. To have the ability to spread the activity area out so that there is more room for secluded enjoyment of the area, just makes good sense, I would encourage you to pursue this. The Beckman has been discovered and through the years you see more and more activity out there. Access like this is priceless.

From: Glenn Elison <glennelison@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, September 1, 2020 8:12 AM
To: Andersen, Sonja
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Wolf Creek Conservation Easement

I fully support the acquisition of the Wolf Creek conservation easement. I am personally familiar with the area from hunting, hiking and other recreation in the immediate area. This easement will be a boon to wildlife and the public's improved and increased recreational use of the area. With declining public access to private lands, conservation easements that provide public access and use are an important tool to perpetuate our hunting heritage.

Glenn Elison

From: grahamtaylor6139@gmail.com <grahamtaylor6139@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, September 10, 2020 6:45 AM
To: Andersen, Sonja
Subject: Public Comment: Wolf Creek Conservation Easement Draft Environmental Assessment

I support pursuit of a conservation easement on the Wolf Creek property in Fergus County. Opportunities to enhance and maintain wildlife habitat, expand and secure long term public recreational opportunity and to encourage further habitat emphasis by private landowners and sporting organizations (PF) is what Habitat Montana is all about. This effort accomplishes all that and more. Future generations of Montanans will thank the Department and the Fish and Wildlife Commission for acting on this tremendous opportunity.

From: mhg4556@gmail.com <mhg4556@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, September 10, 2020 4:28 PM
To: Andersen, Sonja
Subject: Public Comment: Wolf Creek Conservation Easement Draft Environmental Assessment

September 10, 2020

Sonya,

Thank you for the opportunity to review and comment on the Draft EA Wolf Creek Conservation Easement.

I support the proposed action of this EA for FWP to acquire a conservation easement on this property owned by Pheasants Forever. I have helped with habitat projects and recreated on this property. I'm familiar with it.

I support this effort because I agree with the primary objectives to provide perpetual year-round public access to the property, maintain the conservation values of the property, and keep the land in private ownership while maintaining agriculture as the primary land use and in addition the great scenic values.

Sincerely,

Mike Getman

Lewistown, MT 59457

From: henmt1@comcast.net <henmt1@comcast.net>
Sent: Friday, September 11, 2020 8:52 AM
To: Andersen, Sonja
Subject: Public Comment: Wolf Creek Conservation Easement Draft Environmental Assessment

I strongly support the proposed Wolf Creek Conservation Easement. I have hunted both birds and big game on the Wolf Creek PF property since 2013. These lands increase the total amount of public access in the Beckman WMA area and also include more high quality bird hunting habitat than provided on the Beckman. In an area with increasing restrictions on public access to agricultural lands, this access will be increasingly important as time goes by.

thanks for the opportunity to comment.

Harvey Nyberg

From: c_merker@yahoo.com <c_merker@yahoo.com>

Sent: Thursday, September 17, 2020 8:34 AM

To: Andersen, Sonja

Subject: Public Comment: Wolf Creek Conservation Easement Draft Environmental Assessment

The combination of the Beckman WMA and Pheasants Forever Wold Creek property is a favorite place of mine. The proposed CE will only enhance such a gem. In these days of declining, even active efforts by some to deny us, public access please do make this happen.

Chris merker

Lewistown

From: rmacgowan@gmail.com <rmacgowan@gmail.com>

Sent: Friday, September 18, 2020 11:05 AM

To: Andersen, Sonja

Subject: Public Comment: Wolf Creek Conservation Easement Draft Environmental Assessment

What a great opportunity - 110% in favor - yes to purchasing and managing and providing more public access!!!